GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:356
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2002
PRODUCTION OF ANTI-RABIES VACCINE FROM SHEEP
KANTI SINGH;RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has given any direction for banning production of anti-rabies vaccine from sheep as the use of such vaccine leads to paralysis and even loss of human life extensively;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 356 FOR 17TH APRIL, 2002

The Supreme Court of India in its order dated 15.2.2002 has directed that the aspect of use of anti-rabies vaccine from sheep, leading to paralytic side effects and even causing deaths, be looked into by the Government, including the Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA).

The Government has encouraged phasing out of neural tissue vaccine by taking the following steps:

1) Production of Tissue Culture Vaccine, which was around less than one lakh doses in 1992-93, has been steadily enhanced to 5 million doses in 1999-2000 both in private and public sector.

2) The incidence of animal bites ranges from 2.2 to 2.5 million per year. For treatment of 2.5 million animal bites, the requirement of Tissue Culture Anti Rabies Vaccine (TCARV) is 12.5 million doses per year, which will require a large increase in the production capacity for the vaccine. Therefore, while steadily expanding the supply of TCARV, including by augmenting the PII, Coonoor, Neural Tissue Vaccine is still being used in reducing quantities to meet the short fall in the public health system.

3) Economical, efficacious and safe alternative methods in use of Tissue Culture Vaccine intra-dermally is also being explored.